GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2852
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
SNAKES AND VENOM TRADE
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket in snake and venom trade has been unearthed by the Kerala Police recently with the confiscation of snakes and their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of people caught and convicted;

(c) whether the Kerala has become a major source center for snake venom in the international venom-trading network; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts made by the Union Government to bust such illegal trading network?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) As reported by the State Government, three cases of illegal trade of snake venom have been detected by the Forest Vigilance Wing of Kerala recently. Details are given below:

```
Date and Place   Quantity  Status
01-01-2008Kannur  22 gm  3 persons have been arrested and case registered.
02-01-2008Thiruvananthapuram 450 ml.  1 person arrested and case registered.
25-02-2008Nedumbassery  2 litres 8 persons arrested and case registered.
```

(c) There are no such reports available with the Ministry.

(d) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching & illegal trade in wildlife are as under:1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network a five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme −Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.